

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2884

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

DEA WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6868

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: QUARTERLY (JULY-SEPTEMBER) NARCOTICS REPORT - ECUADOR
OCTOBER 15, 1974

1. SUMMARY: IN AUGUST THE AMBASSADOR RAISED A NUMBER OF NARCOTICS MATTERS WITH THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE (QUITO 5413). THEREAFTER, DEA REPORTED A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN COOPERATION AND, CONCURRENTLY, A NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT IN ARRESTS AND SEIZURES BY THE NATIONAL POLICE WAS NOTED. BETTER CONTROLS OVER INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS AT THE QUITO AIRPORT WERE ESTABLISHED. AMENDMENTS TO THE NARCOTIC LAW WHICH STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE LEGAL CAPACITY FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT WERE ADOPTED.

2. ABUSE - NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS REPORT.

3. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING - NO BASIC CHANGE BUT MORE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY HAS RESULTED IN THE ELIMINATION OF SOME PLANTATIONS AND LABORATORIES.

4. TRAFFICKING TRENDS - ESTABLISHED TRAFFICKING TRENDS
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STILL CONTINUE, WHEREAS ALMOST ALL COCAINE PASTE PROCESSED

INTO COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE IN ECUADOREAN LABORATORIES IS SMUGGLED IN FROM PERU. A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF COCAINE BASE AND COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE IS THEN SMUGGLED OVERLAND INTO COLOMBIA, IN ADDITION TO DIRECT SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S. AND MEXICO.

5. ENFORCEMENT -

A. IN MACARA, LOJA PROVINCE, NATIONAL POLICE ARRESTED A LONG ESTABLISHED GROUP OF TRAFFICKERS INVOLVED IN THE IMPORTATION OF COCAINE PASTE FROM PERU. WHILE NO SEIZURES WERE MADE A REPORTEDLY IMPORTANT TRAFFICKING NET WAS ELIMINATED. COCAINE LABORATORIES IN CUENCA AND GUAYAQUIL WERE DISMANTLED AND A NUMBER OF CONNECTED OPERATORS AND TRAFFICKERS WERE APPREHENDED. AN EXTENSIVE COCA PLANTATION IN CANAR PROVINCE WAS DISCOVERED AND DESTROYED. IMPORTANT ARRESTS DURING THE PERIOD INVOLVED CITIZENS FROM THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, PERU AND COLOMBIA AS WELL AS ECUADOR. DURING THE STATISTICAL PERIOD (JUNE-AUGUST) 322 DRUG ARRESTS INCLUDING 207 FOR TRAFFICKING WERE MADE AND 63.8 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE BASE AND 20.8 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA WERE SEIZED AS WELL AS FOUR LABORATORIES.

B. INSTITUTIONAL IMPROVEMENT - AN IMPENDING REORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE HAS IMPEDED ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTION IMPROVEMENT. A 40 PERCENT INCREASE IN TRAINED CUSTOMS POLICE PERSONNEL HAS BEEN REALIZED BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE ITS EFFECT.

C. LEGISLATION - AMENDMENTS TO THE NARCOTICS LAW STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING THE LEGAL CAPACITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW WERE ADOPTED.

6. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION - THE GOE'S EDUCATION PROGRAM ON DRUGS WAS INSTITUTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS INCREASED AND SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS HAVE RECEIVED MORE ATTENTION.

7. TRAINING - NO ADDITIONAL IN-COUNTRY TRAINING HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT DURING THIS PERIOD. THREE NATIONAL POLICEMEN WERE SENT TO THE DEA SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON.

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8. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION - NO NO CHANGE.

9. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES - THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE HAD THE EFFECT OF CREATING GREATER INTEREST IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AMONG HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE GOE. THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASED SEIZURES AND ARRESTS. AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING, A JOINT MONTHLY MEETING OF

SENIOR ECUADOREAN AND UNITED STATES OFFICIALS CHARGED
WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS HAS BEEN
INAUGURATED. ALTHOUGH TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THEIR EFFECTIVE-
NESS (TWO MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD), THESE SESSIONS MAY
OFFER A FORUM FOR EXPLORING BETTER WAYS TO COPE WITH
THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM IN ECUADOR.
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